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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/27/06

SPONSOR Ingle LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Independent Living Services SB 355

ANALYST Weber

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$160.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

No Response received from Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)

SUMMARY

Senate Bill 355 appropriates \$160 thousand from the general fund to the Vocational Rehabilitation Division. (DVR) of the Public Education Department for the purpose of providing independent living services in underserved counties.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$160 thousand this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY07 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Independent living is a non-medical model of services that enables people with disabilities to achieve the highest level of self-sufficiency and control over their own lives. Centers for Independent Living in New Mexico have a potential client base of approximately 300,000 adults. 25% of adults surveyed in the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Surveys of 1998-2000 identified themselves as having disabilities (Department of Health Office of Disability and Health "Disability in New Mexico Report, 2001").

The DVR annual report notes independent living services are provided by centers for independent living in Santa Fe, Las Cruces, Farmington and Roswell and offices in Alamogordo, Las Vegas, Gallup and Socorro. Ninety-five percent of the state's population lives in the service area of the Centers for Independent Living.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

To ensure legislative intent is followed, consideration should be given to expanding the definition of underserved counties. As a practical matter all counties may be underserved.

MW/yr